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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, at 12 noon.

Senate

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:
Let us pray.

Eternal God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, thank You for this season of giving that reminds us of Your blessing of salvation.

Your redemptive thread can be seen throughout the fabric of our Nation's history. Redeem us again. Make Your redemptive power give wisdom and courage to our lawmakers as You illu-

minate their path with the light of Your guidance. Empower them to make their decisions after weighing them on the scale of long-term consequences.

Today, bless our United States Capitol Police, who routinely risk their lives for liberty. Surround them and their loved ones with the shield of Your protection and favor.

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2014, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Tuesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 31, 2014, and will be delivered on Monday, January 5, 2015.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman*.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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In a special way embrace Senator THAD COCHRAN with Your transforming presence as he grieves the loss of his beloved Rose. Lord, thank You for the life and legacy of Rose Cochran.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 83, which is the omnibus spending bill.

Rollcall votes are expected throughout the day. If no time agreement is reached, the cloture vote on the motion to concur in relation to the omnibus will be at approximately 1 a.m. tomorrow morning.

FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I won't use a lot of time here this morning because we have a lot to do.

We worked for a long time yesterday, into the late hours of the night, trying to secure an agreement to vote on a long-term government funding bill. I was last talking to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee at 11 o'clock last night.

Regrettably, a small group of Senate Republicans has determined it is in their political interests to hold this legislation hostage. They objected to an agreement that would allow us to vote on Monday night. We are now relegated to watching time tick away on our clocks just so we can keep the government open and funded. I remind everyone that at 12 o'clock midnight—12 a.m.—the U.S. Government, tonight, runs out of money.

We even tried to get an agreement last night to extend government funding for a few extra days while we worked to pass the long-term funding bill, but the Republicans wouldn't let us do that.

So now we wait. But while we wait, we shouldn't waste time. Republicans and their leader have known for weeks, if not months, that we intend to vote on the President's nominations. So it is clear that this impasse we are having here today is not about nominees, it is about preventing us from funding the government. So now, on the eve of

our government running out of funding, Senate Republicans are forcing completely unnecessary procedural votes just to waste time and slow us down from funding the government.

It doesn't have to be this way. We can still come to an agreement to take care of funding for our great country right now.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I will yield for a question.

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to ask the majority leader for some clarification.

Is my understanding correct that at midnight tonight officially the funding of our government ceases?

Mr. REID. Absolutely true.

Mr. DURBIN. And the majority leader asked the Republican side of the aisle to at least extend it several days while we completed our work on the omnibus budget bill sent to us by the House?

Mr. REID. Yes, we had yesterday evening a piece of legislation from the House doing just that—extending the time for a few days.

Mr. DURBIN. Was there an objection by the Republicans to the short-term extension so our government would continue operating?

Mr. REID. We were told it wouldn't be necessary to do that because we couldn't get agreement to do it. So the answer is yes.

Mr. DURBIN. Late last night, the junior Senator from Texas came to the floor. Is he part of the group that is objecting to moving forward on the omnibus bill?

Mr. REID. Well, it appears so. At 10 o'clock or so last night he gave a relatively extended speech. If someone looks at that speech, he wasn't critical of me. Most of his criticism was for the Speaker and the Republican leader here. He was challenging whether they were people of their word as to what they were going to do.

Mr. DURBIN. I might just ask the majority leader, this is the same Senator who shut down the government last year in protest over the Affordable Care Act?

Mr. REID. The very same man. Now he is hung up on not only the Affordable Care Act but the President's action to give 5 million people relief in this country so they can come out of the shadows and make our country a more productive place.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the majority leader and hope we can find some support to moving forward to fund the government and accept our responsibilities.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

INSULAR AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the message to accompany H.R. 83, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 83, an act to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Reid amendment No. 4100 (to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 4101 (to amendment No. 4100), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 4102, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 4103 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 4102), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 4104 (to amendment No. 4103), of a perfecting nature.

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1084.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 35, as follows: